

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7 and 22 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 22 and 55-60 are objected to and claims 5, 8-11, 13-18 and 42-54 are allowed. Subsequent to the entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 13-19, 21, and 42-60 are pending. These amendments add no new matter as the claim language is fully supported by the specification and original claims.

I. Allowed claims

Applicants acknowledge that claims 5, 8-11, 13-18 and 42-54 are allowed.

II. Allowable claims

Claims 4, 7, 22 and 55-60 are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 (the base claim) with all of the limitations of claims 3 and 4, and claim 19 (the base claim) with all of the limitations of claim 22. Amended claims 1 and 19 should now be allowable over the prior art. Claims 55-60 depend upon claim 19, which has been amended and is now allowable, thereby making these dependent claims also allowable.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson et al. (US 6,120,666, hereinafter "Jacobson") in view of Kurabayashi et al. (PG PUB 20030054558, hereinafter "Kurabayashi"). This rejection is moot with regard to canceled claim 3. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Applicants have amended claim 1 with the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and amended claim 19 with the allowable subject matter of claim 22, thereby making both of the claims allowable, along with dependent claims 2 and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims 1, 2 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

No fee is deemed necessary with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1896, referencing the above-identified attorney-docket number. A copy of the Transmittal Sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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